

QRA NEWSLETTER

QUANNAPOWITT RADIO ASSOCIATION

6 SAVIN STREET, BURLINGTON, MA 01803-2210

EMAIL: AA1M@ARRL.NET

CLUB CALL: W1EKT

ON THE WEB AT: WWW.W1EKT.ORG

APRIL 2018

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 8

QRA WAS FOUNDED ON NOVEMBER 18, 1948

IN WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

1948-2018, OUR 70th YEAR

CLUB OFFICERS

President – Don Melanson, KA1MAP
Vice President – Mike Rioux, W1USN
Secretary – Bob Reiser, AA1M
Treasurer – Jeff Hollis, W1CKH
Club Webmaster – Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES
Club Call Trustee – Dex Wheeler, W1TUM
QRA Equipment Manager – Dave Libby, N1SJB
Nominating Committee- Barbara Day, KA1EDV
QRA 2-Meter Net- Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES
Education Committee- Jim Fisk, W1HL
Tom Cefalo Jr. - W1EX
Tim McNulty, K1TIM
Field Day Committee - Walter Callahan, KC1ENI
Jim Powers, KC1ENJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Bill Watt, W1HN | 2016-2018 |
| Rob Woltag, W1AFP | 2016-2018 |
| Fred DeVries, KC1FIZ | 2016-2018 |
| John Carrick, KB1YEF | 2017-2019 |
| Tim McNulty, K1TIM | 2017-2019 |
| Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES | 2017-2019 |
| Membership committee - | VACANCY |
| Archives Trustee – Bob Reiser, AA1M | |
| Christmas Committee - Jim Fisk, W1HL | |
| Speaker Committee - Mike Rioux, W1USN | |
| John Carrick, KB1YEF | |
| Banquet Committee- John Carrick, KB1YEF | |
| Barbara Day, KA1EDV | |
| Jim Fisk, W1HL | |

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Our March 2018 membership meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by club president Don Melanson, KA1MAP. A roll call was requested and there were 13 active members and 2 guests of which 1 became a new member. Guest speaker Mike Rioux, W1USN showed a slide presentation on the UBIXT transceiver and displayed the actual transceiver and all its functions. Mike also explained all the future upgrades and explained the available open software to do the upgrades by anyone.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as read in the latest club newsletter.

Open issues were presented, including, treasury report by Jeff Hollis, W1CKH, Field day plans for June 23-24, QRA 70th year celebration on December 17, 1948 (formally "Crystal 10"). President passed out copies of "The QRA Story" to each member and requested it be posted on the QRA web page and the QRA facebook page. This was approved by the membership. Repeater re-location discussion was held.

An open discussion and vote was held on dues increase from \$15 per year to \$20 per year effective with the 2018-2019 membership year and passed 100%.

A discussion on event cost to the club and membership and the suggested payment per member attending for events costing the club. Banquets, celebrations etc. and a vote was taken and passed by 100% of the attending members. Meeting adjourned. (thanks to president Don for taking the meeting minutes during my absence).

QRA ON FACEBOOK

Join us on our combined Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/QRAWolfPack/> and keep up to date with information about QRA and the Wolf Pack Repeater System. Both are being run by Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES.

AMATEUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Dear affiliated Eastern MA Club newsletter editor,

My name is Kayla Creamer, W2IRY, and I am the Eastern MA ARRL Section Public Information Coordinator. I am writing in hopes that you might be able to help us with a call for volunteers for the upcoming IEEE conference at the Westin Boston Waterfront from July 8-12. If you haven't heard about the event, here's some info about the event as well as volunteer roles that we're seeking to fill:

The Eastern MA ARRL field organization has been requested to provide an Amateur Radio presence at the IEEE AP-S/URSI Symposium in Boston, July 8-12, 2018 at the Westin Boston Waterfront, adjacent to the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in Boston's Seaport District.

Address: 425 Summer St, Boston, MA 02210

Phone: (617) 532-4600

Website: http://www.westinbostonwaterfront.com/

Amateurs will outfit and staff a booth in the trade show area of the conference, where "conference attendees can ask questions about how to get involved in ham radio, either as a hobby or as a vehicle for student learning," according to David Michelson, VE7TSX, Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC. Michelson chairs the IEEE's AP-S/URSI Joint Meetings Committee.

In addition to a booth, the IEEE leaders have requested Volunteer Exam sessions be conducted on the Conference site for attendees interested in obtaining their licenses. "The chances of conflicting with Committee meetings, technical sessions, etc. are very high, so we're suggesting two exam sessions on different days might overcome that problem," Michelson adds.

If you, your radio club, or VE team would like to be involved in this high-profile event, please register to volunteer for HamRadio @ IEEE AP-S 2018 or contact Phil Temples, K9HI, at k9hi@arrl.org.

We thank you for any publicity you might be able to offer. Please feel free to reach out to myself or Phil if you have any questions.

Thank you., Kayla Creamer, w2iry@arrl.net, Public Information Coordinator, Eastern MA ARRL Section www.ema.arrl.org, www.fb.com/easternmaarrl/

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**QRA members get 25% off labor when you mention
this ad, compliments of Brian, WO1VES**

QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The QRA holds its membership meetings at the Reading, MA Senior Citizen Center at 49 Pleasant Street in the old fire house. All are invited and holding an Amateur Radio license is not required. Meetings begin around 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month, September through June. We have very interesting speakers. Come join us and bring a friend with you.

781-368-3413

Web, <http://www.shamelesswolf.com>

Email: brian@shamelesswolf.com

TO NEW ENGLAND RADIO CLUBS:

I'd appreciate your help in publicizing the upcoming New England QSO Party on May 5th and 6th. Please mention it at your next club meeting and in your newsletter.

The NEQP is a great time to check out antenna systems and offers a moderately paced opportunity to work new states and countries. You'll find a wide variety of participants, from newcomers to experienced contesters, all interested in making contacts with New England stations.

We're working to make sure that all of the New England counties are active again this year and would appreciate your help. Get on for at least an hour or two and join in on the fun. Please let me know if you can put in any time at all so we can work on activity from the rarest counties. **Will you be QRV? Let us know which county you'll be on from with a message to info@neqp.org**

Oh yes, the NEQP is also **lots** of fun when mobile. Every time you cross a county line the action starts over again. It's amazing what a 100w radio and mobile whip can do.

The QSO Party is 20 hours long overall, in two sections with a civilized break for sleep Saturday night. It goes from 4pm Saturday until 1am Sunday, then 9am Sunday until 8pm Sunday. Operate on CW, SSB and digital modes on 80-40-20-15-10 meters. For each QSO you'll give your callsign, a signal report and your county/state. Top scorers can earn a plaque and everyone who makes 25 QSOs and sends in a log will get a certificate.

Last year we had logs from 177 New England stations and 460 more from around the country and world. The full NEQP rules are here -> <http://www.neqp.org/rules.html>

The 2017 results are posted and the results since 2002 are also available -> <http://www.neqp.org/results.html>

It's just about a month until the 2018 NEQP. Please make some QSOs even if you don't want to send in a log.

Thanks! 73 Tom/K1KI

New England QSO Party - <http://www.neqp.org> - May 5-6, 2018

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COME JOIN THE QRA 2-METER NET ON TUESDAY EVENINGS

WA1RHN/R AT 7:30 PM ON 147.075

FM/FUSIO * PL Tone 151.4

Echolink: WO1VES-R (813502)

ARRL: HOW CAN I HELP?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, I received this email from a reader:

“Hi Dan,

“Hope you’re doing well. I have a couple of questions about the ARRL. I’ve been reading your blog and other sources, and it’s clear that the ARRL is in a little trouble. I have to say, though, that as soon as the current administration in D.C. notices that some of their friends can make money off of amateur radio bandwidth, the whole amateur radio service is in very serious jeopardy. The only way I can think of to counter that would be an organization like the ARRL, and I think there’s really only one organization like the ARRL. Is that not true? If it is, how can we help?”

I replied that it is true that there’s only one organization like the ARRL. In the past, there have been groups that have tried to compete with the ARRL, but they’ve never really taken off. It’s an incredible amount of work to set up an organization like the ARRL and none of the alternates have been able to get to critical mass.

The second question—How can we help?—is the big question. Here are a few thoughts:

- Join the ARRL. If you’re not currently a member, join. You’ll have little or no influence, if you are not a member.
- If you are a member, but your friends are not, encourage them to join. The more members the ARRL has, the more influence it will have. This is common sense, but the ARRL doesn’t really seem to care about this. In the past, I’ve encouraged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of licensed radio amateurs. I honestly don’t think this is asking too much, and I’ve never heard a good argument for them not to do this. They continue to ignore me, and the percentage of licensed radio amateurs that are ARRL members continues to decline.
- Take an interest in ARRL matters and let your director and vice director know your views. Get your friends to do likewise. Get on the mailing lists for the board meeting agendas and minutes. To do this, log into the ARRL website, click on “Edit your profile,” then “Edit email subscriptions.”
- Invite your ARRL elected officials—your division director, vice director, and section manager—to talk at your club meetings. Be prepared to grill them on issues that you think are important.
- Run for office yourself. I ran for Great Lakes Division vice director twice. Unfortunately, I lost both times, but even running is a way to have an impact. I’d like to see the “loyal opposition” get organized and challenge the status quo, especially in divisions where I think the current director is making bad decisions.

Having said all that, there are ways to make an impact besides playing ARRL politics:

- Get on the air. It’s easier to lose bands if we’re not using them. Encourage others to be active.
- Be an Elmer to those that need it.
- Teach classes to help those who want a license get a license and to help those who are already licensed to upgrade their licenses.
- Be an ambassador for amateur radio, especially to related groups, such as the “maker” groups that have sprung up around the country. Make sure that they know about your amateur radio club and the classes and exam sessions that you offer.

I’d love to hear any other thoughts that you all may have on this. I really do think that at this point, we need to inundate the ARRL Board and staff with input from the membership. While they may have a long history of ignoring the membership and just going about their own merry way, now is really a time of change, and this might be the right time to set the ARRL on a better path.

When he's not getting all worked up over ARRL politics, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches amateur radio classes, and works CW on the HF bands. He's the author of the *No Nonsense* amateur radio license study guides and *The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code*.

IS IT TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES ?

STILL ONLY \$15.00

UNTIL THIS SEPTEMBER

Dues can be paid to the club treasurer at the next meeting or sent to him at:
QRA c/o Jeff Hollis, W1CKH, 46 Bond St., Reading, MA 01867-2432

**NEAR-Fest XXIII
May 4 & 5, 2018
Deerfield, New Hampshire**

What is The New England Amateur Radio Festival (NEAR-Fest)?

The NEAR-Fest is an international event run by and for all radio hobbyists and enthusiasts, including “hams”, short-wave listeners, scanner buffs, vintage/antique radio fans, etc. NEAR-Fest is held twice annually, spring and fall, rain or shine, at the Deerfield Fairgrounds, Deerfield NH beginning on Friday at 0900 and ending Saturday at 1500 hours.

Admission is \$10. Persons under 18 and over 80 are admitted free of charge upon presentation of government-issued ID. Inside parking is available for \$10 and includes a “reasonable amount of flea market selling space” for PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS selling their own personal property. Commercial vendors must register and pay applicable fees. If you are wondering if you are a “commercial vendor” you probably are. One complimentary inside commercial space is available for clubs, estates and other “non-profit organizations” on an “as available” basis.

The program of activities and events at NEAR-Fest is extensive; a huge outdoor electronic flea market, three buildings full of commercial vendors, forums, technical seminars and symposia, demonstrations, exhibits, displays, licensing examinations, special events radio stations, a “jam session”, good food, fellowship, fun and general mishigoss. NEAR-Fest is the largest event of its kind in the Northeast and has once been described as the “Woodstock of Amateur Radio”. (thanks to Ron Draper, WA1QZK)

MEMORIAL FOR JIM MORRIS, K1UGM

Hi,

Talked with Rhody and she said Jim’s Memorial will be on Saturday, May 5. Interment will be at 11 am in the Lakeside Cemetery, 501 North Ave in Wakefield. A celebration will follow at noon in the Heritage Room at the Americal Civic Center, 467 Main Street, Wakefield; the old armory just south of the Water Street.

Bruce Wedlock, AB1HF

I also spoke with Rhoda and she mentioned it would be a great if those planning on attending the celebration at the Heritage Room were to notify her at 781 258 0805. (BOB, AA1M)

**QRA IS ON THE WEB AT:
WWW.W1EKT.ORG**

and

<http://www.facebook.com/QRAWolfPack/>

**NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING
IS THURSDAY**

APRIL 19, 2018

AND WILL BEGIN AT

*** * * 7:00 PM * * ***

KDA Custom Embroidery is owned by QRA member Paul Anderson, KA1GIJ and his wife Kathleen. For over 20 years, Paul and Kathleen have been providing customized embroidery and screen-printing from their shop on Pearl Street in Reading. Names, monograms, call signs, logos and designs (stock or customized) can be stitched on hats, shirts, sweatshirts, polo-shirts and more. Purchase garments from them or provide your own.

Visit: www.kdaembroidery.com, email to kdace@aol.com or call Kathleen at (781) 942-0421.

QRA Purpose and Meeting Location

The QRA is an organization which is open to all who are interested in radio communications. It is our goal to further develop and help expand Amateur Radio ("Ham Radio"), while enjoying ourselves. The QRA was founded in Wakefield, Massachusetts on November 18, 1948 and is still based in the same geographical area. Everyone interested is invited to attend QRA meetings and other activities as well as to join the association. You do not need to hold an Amateur Radio license to participate. Annual dues are \$15.00 and are payable at the beginning of our fiscal year in September and may be paid to the club treasurer at a meeting or sent to his address which is listed elsewhere in this issue of QRA News. The meetings of the QRA are held at the Reading Senior Center, 49 Pleasant Street in Reading, Mass. Pleasant Street meets Route 28 (Main Street) in Reading center opposite the CVS drug store. The Senior Center is located in an historic restored fire barn, approximately half a block from Route 28. Some members will remember it as the place QRA once held Amateur Radio classes. There is plenty of parking in the rear and the building is handicapped accessible. Our membership meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, excluding the summer months of July and August and are scheduled to start at 7:00 pm. The club provides interesting and informative programs, often with speakers and interesting subjects, mini auctions, coffee and donuts and plenty of fellowship. The QRA Newsletter is published 10 times each year on the months we hold our meetings. As stated above, anyone interested in Amateur Radio is invited to attend a meeting and to join us on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm on the WA1RHN/R repeater (147.075), an FM/FUSIO * PL Tone 151.4 Echolink: WO1VES-R (813502)

Please join us and bring along a friend.

EASTERN MA ARRL SECTION IS ON FACEBOOK

Kayla, W2IRY, our section Public Information Coordinator has taken up the challenge to improve the flow of information to the section. Kayla has created an Eastern MA ARRL Facebook page for us. This is a new page so we need help finding content to post especially from the affiliated clubs. If you are on Facebook, please give our page a like and promote it with your club. Our goal is to have the page be a central place to find information about all ham related activities in the region. If your club has a Facebook presence, we'd be happy to promote it. If it isn't on Facebook, we can help promote your club and activities. Find us at <<https://www.facebook.com/easternmaarrl/>>

ARRL SEEKS EC-001 MENTORS

Since the beginning of the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications training program, ARRL has relied on the work of mentors to help guide those interested in volunteering to serve their communities. The current pool of mentors has fallen quite low. In fact, there are none currently registered from the EMA section! The qualifications to serve are extensive but if you have the experience your help is needed now. Visit this web link for details <<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-ec-001-mentors>>.

SPECIAL EVENTS

APRIL 21, 2018: International Marconi Day (IMD)

KM1CC, the Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club will set up a temporary amateur radio station at the Cape Cod National Seashore for IM. This annual event honors Guglielmo Marconi for his contributions to wireless technology. Marconi's 1901 Wireless Station Site in Wellfleet MA, is listed as a National Landmark on the National Register of Historic Places (1975) and is now part of Cape Cod National Seashore. IMD is sponsored by the Cornish Radio Club, UK; many historic Marconi stations participate. The event is 24 hours, April 21 0000-2359 UTC. Follow KM1CC on <<http://dxsummit.fi/#/>> or our Facebook page at <<https://www.facebook.com/KM1CC>>. (information via Barbara N1NS, Trustee KM1CC)

April 28, 2018: W1BSA on the USS Massachusetts

The annual W1BSA event will take place April 28, 2018 from 10:00-15:00. Visit the USS Massachusetts ward room to operate this great event. (Information via Rick Emord, KB1TEE)

June 1-3, 2018: NE1PL on the USS Massachusetts 2018 The USS Massachusetts will participate on June 1-3 for "Museum Ships on the Air". Anyone interested in coming out and operating please contact Rick KB1TEE at <kb1tee@gmail.com> In addition to radio operators they are seeking people to help log contacts, speak to guests and other duties. Check out the website <www.ne1pl.org> for updates on operations. (Information via Rick Emord KB1TEE)

1-DAY TECHNICIAN CLASS ON APRIL 21 IN GLOUCESTER

The Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association, (CAARA), is holding a one day study course for those interested in earning the FCC Technician class amateur radio license. This course will be held at the Lanesville community Center on 8 Vulcan Street in Gloucester, MA on Saturday, April 21st, 2018. Starting at 8:30 AM and going until 4:30 PM. Exams will begin at the end of class. There is a \$20.00 fee for course materials, snacks and the FCC Test Fee. You must sign up beforehand by e-mailing CAARA at <mailto:technaday@caara.net>. (Information via Bill Poulin, WZ1L)

THIS MONTH'S CLUB NEWS

Barnstable ARC (BARC): <<https://www.barnstablearc.org/>> BARC members have been active with the Cape and Islands ARES call-up. For two weeks BARC members were primary operators at The Harwich Tec School, Harwich Ma and the Barnstable Intermediate School, Barnstable Ma. Both locations provided shelter from the nor'easters that effected the Cape. They provided 90 hours of communication services. (Information via Mark Petruzzi, WA1EXA).

Billerica ARS (BARS):

Talk about a tough winter! Two months in a row, the monthly Billerica ARS (BARS) meeting was postponed due to inclement weather. The third time is a charm (April they hope), and you can still catch our ARRL New England Division Vice Director, Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF, speaking about the January ARRL Board of Directors meeting at the April 4 BARS meeting in Chelmsford. Furthermore, thanks to great work from Jesse, W1DEA, the Billerica ARS now has a new and much improved website at <<https://www.w1hh.org/>>.

Genesis ARS (GARS):

GARS announced that the first of March will be the official date for using NXDN on N1ZIZ. Only PL/131.8 will be supported post March 2018. The repeater will then use Mixed Mode = NXDN to NXDN and or Analog to Analog.

NASHOBA VALLEY ARC (NVARC):

The February meeting of the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club (NVARC) featured a presentation on Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) by Steve, NA1T. Following the formal presentation Steve displayed and discussed several "Go Boxes" he uses for ARES and public service activities in New Hampshire.

On Sunday, February 25, NVARC supported the Girl Scouts of Shirley and Ayer for Girl Scout "Thinking Day on The Air". NVARC has supported Girl Scout troops in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire for four years now. You can see pictures of the event on the Nashoba Valley Voice at <http://www.nashobavalleyvoice.com/ci_31706294> (NVARC information via Stan KD1LE, President NVARC)

QUANNAPOWITT RADIO ASSOCIATION (QRA):

Here is a new Facebook page for you to enjoy celebrating the combined energy of the QRA club and the Wolf Pack repeaters. Check it out at <<https://www.facebook.com/QRAWolfPack/>>.

PART OF WESTFORD: <<http://www.wb1gof.org/>>

Andy, KB1OIQ, President of PART provides several news items: - The PART monthly breakfast moved to Paul's Diner in Westford. Attendance jumped to 15 people! - The PART kit building activity was attended by about a dozen people, four of whom were kit builders, and others were Elmers or curious onlookers. We built the Cricket 80a QRP CW transceiver for the 80m band and had a lot of fun.

- Andy (KB1OIQ) gave a brief talk to NVARC about the new EMA website, and the upcoming EMA Facebook presence. Andy and Kayla got word to the club contacts of EMA about this updated form of outreach.
- Andy (KB1OIQ) gave a talk to NVARC about the BITX40 and uBITX kit radios from India. Andy's modifications are intended to help visually impaired ham radio operators. He has found a locate ham who is willing to test his prototype.
- PART meeting in March will be a discussion about our three repeaters.
- PART meeting in April will be "Show 'n Tell".

WELLESLEY ARS (WARS):

All hams are welcome to check into the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society Net on Wednesday evenings at 8 pm on the W1TKZ repeater 147.030 MHz +600 kHz (PL tone 123 Hz). WARS also operates the W1TKZ repeater on 444.600 MHz +5 MHz (PL tone 88.5 Hz). It is linked to the two meter 147.030 +600 kHz W1TKZ repeater.

MONTHLY ARES REPORT

Marek, KB1NCG (SEC), reports 670 registered EMA ARES members, 17 active nets and 6 DECs reporting in February 2018. Contact Marek KB1NCG, at <kb1ncg@gmail.com> to register with EMA ARES.

MONTHLY SECTION TRAFFIC MANGER REPORT:

Contact Marcia, KW1U, at kw1u@arrl.net or join one of the many nets below to learn more about traffic handling.

The National Traffic System (NTS), February 2018 Recognitions:

(1) Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR):

Recognition for February: KC1CIC (135), KW1U (130), N1TF (115), N1IQI (110), W1RVY (100), N1LAH (100), N1SYC (99), WA1LPM (90), N1LKJ (77), and KC1HHO (74).

(2) Brass Pounder League (BPL):

Recognition for February: KW1U.

See the monthly "Public Service" column in QST for more information about the BPL and PSHR recognitions.

NTS NETS (COMBINED EMA/WMA)

EMA/WMA NTS Nets are listed below. Please support the nets and check in.

EM2MN 145.230 MHz 8PM Daily
MARIPN 3978 KHz 6PM Tu, Th, Sa
HHTN MMRA Repeaters 10PM Su, M, W, F
CITN 147.375 MHz 7:30PM M, Tu, Th, Sa
MARI 3565 KHz 7PM Daily
CM2MN 146.970 MHz 9PM Daily
WMTN 146.910 MHz 10AM Daily
WMTN 146.910 MHz 1PM Daily
WMEN 3944 KHz 8:30AM Su
NEPN 3945 KHz 8:45AM Su

FIRST REGION NET (1RN/FRN) FEBRUARY 2018 REPORTS (NTS)

Bill, W1KX, manages 1RN Cycle 4, the evening CW net. Bill reports in February there were 56 sessions, 181 check-ins, and the handling of 83 pieces of traffic.

Betsy, K1EIC, manages FRN Cycle 2, the daytime SSB net. Betsy reports in February there were 55 sessions, 229 check-ins, and the handling of 111 pieces of Traffic.

SILENT KEYS

We have received the sad news that Tom, N1HIY, passed away on 27 February. (Information via George W1ZT and the NSRA list). We have received the sad news that John (WA1JG, ex-WB1EHL) has passed away. (From the NSRA list).

Until next month, 73, Tom, K1TW

ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Section Manager:
Thomas D Walsh, K1TW, k1tw@arrl.org

COME JOIN THE QRA 2-METER NET ON TUESDAY EVENINGS
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